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Organization of ESOMM-2014: 5th international meeting on the Effects of Sound in the Ocean on Marine Mammals

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(password protected)

LONG-TERM GOALS

Responsible use of active sonar systems

OBJECTIVES

Supporting the exchange of information between scientists, regulators and other stakeholders.

APPROACH

An international meeting was organized in Amsterdam in September 2014 at the Naval Barracks of the Royal Netherlands Navy. Attendance of the meeting was by invitation only in order to warrantee the group getting not too big, while ensuring key players to be present. The meeting was aiming at maximizing interaction time for all attendees: there was a get-together upon arrival and a reception following the plenary programme on the Monday. After the plenary programme from Monday to Thursday, meeting rooms were made available in The Hague for project meetings on the Friday. The plenary programme has been compiled based on experience with previous ESOMM-2011 meeting, and with recommendations of a number of key persons. Session-chairs have been assigned in order to reflect different disciplines and stakeholders in the field. The meeting was formally opened by rear-admiral Rob Bauer, director of plans for NL MoD.

The meeting was organized together with LCDR René Dekeling (RNLN) and Marije Siemensma (MS&C), together with logistics and secretary support of TNO staff. On-site there was additional support of undergrad Kristianne Dreteler (Leiden University).

The meeting was funded by the NL-MOD, with additional support from ONR, ONRG, CNO-N45 and TNO.

WORK COMPLETED

The meeting was organized, abstract book compiled. Programme and abstracts have been provided to all attendees together with namelist. After the conference posters and presentations have been distributed. A special ESOMM-issue for *Aquatic Mammals Journal* has been announced. Several papers will therefore be published as a scientific paper, scheduled for the autumn 2015 issue of this journal. It is expected that there are enough papers for a full issue from a variety of topics and stakeholders.

RESULTS

In total about 140 persons attended the meeting, distributed over different days. Monday and Wednesday were most attended with around 110-120 persons. Representation of different disciplines and stakeholders was very good with especially good representation of different navies, policy group and a good group from oil and gas industry. On the first day a brief telephone interview was organized with Brandon Southall to report from the Socal-project, that was having field work during the meeting. One clear highlight of the meeting was the inspiring presentation by Prof. Walter Munk, secretary chair at Scripps for the US Navy, and “just 96 years young”.

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

In general, an update of scientific progress has been provided. Different developments for different countries and regions (e.g. EU and USA) have been exchanged. The meeting has been supporting the introduction and interaction of key people in the field enabling to lower thresholds for alignment of different developments worldwide.

RELATED PROJECTS

Presentations of several (ONR and other) projects: MOCHA, SOCAL, 3S, PCAD, Stress-program. Also work from Australian BRS (BRAHSS) and from Denmark presented. (list not complete, but rather to illustrate variety of projects; see programme for details)

PUBLICATIONS / DELIVERABLES

- ESOMM-2014 abstract book
- ESOMM-2014 website, www.esomm.org (password protected)
- ESOMM-2014 DVD, containing posters and presentations
- ESOMM-2014 special issue *Aquatic Mammals Journal*, scheduled for autumn 2015 issue